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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Second (pre-sessional) executive session
Geneva, 5 March 1993
Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS FOR THE SECOND (PRE-SESSIONAL) EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

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   (b) Designation of the President of the fortieth session of the Board

2. Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

   (a) Standing Committee on Commodities, first session (19 - 23 October 1992);

   (b) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, first session (26 - 30 October 1992);

   (c) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Shipping, first session (2 - 6 November 1992);

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* As approved by the board at its 816th plenary meeting on 14 October 1992, and amended at the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 21 January 1993.

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(d) Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, first session (9 - 13 November 1992);

(e) Ad hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, first session (16 - 20 November 1992), including an interim report on the preparations for the International Symposium on Trade Efficiency in 1994;

(f) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, eleventh session (23 - 27 November 1992);

(g) Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization, first session (30 November - 4 December 1992);

(h) Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries, first session (14 - 18 December 1992);

(i) Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, first session (11 - 15 January 1993);

(j) Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, first session (18 - 22 January 1993);

(k) Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, first session (25 - 29 January 1993);

(l) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Insurance, first session (1-5 February 1993);

3. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in relation to UNCTAD

4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) New States members of UNCTAD;

(b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board;

(c) Arrangements for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 1994

5. Other business

6. Report of the Board on its second (pre-sessional) executive session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1. The guidelines for the Trade and Development Board in executive session are annexed to the present document for ease of reference.

Item 1(a) Adoption of the agenda

The consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAd on 21 January 1993 approved the addition of an item relating to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in relation to UNCTAD. (cf. item 3).

Item 1(b) Designation of the President of the fortieth session of the Board

It will be recalled that, by decision 360 (XXXV), of 5 October 1988, the Board reaffirmed its decision 338 (XXXIII), of 9 September 1986, whereby it agreed that it would be desirable for the board to identify, before the end of each regular session, the person to be elected as President at its next regular session, so as to enable the person concerned to participate in an advisory capacity in the preparatory work for the regular session at which he would serve as President.

In accordance with the cycle for the rotation (contained in annex I to the rules of procedure of the Board), the President at the fortieth session shall be a representative of one of the Asian States in List A.

No documentation

Item 2 Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

In calling for the policy function of the Board to be strengthened, the Conference, in paragraph 67 of the Cartagena Commitment, called upon its executive sessions, inter alia, to react to reports from the subsidiary bodies, in order to give impetus to ongoing work.

In taking note of the outcome of sessions of various subsidiary bodies, the pre-sessional executive session may also wish to make appropriate recommendations.

The question of specific dates for future meetings will be taken up by the Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session within the framework of agenda item 11 (c) - Review of Calendar of Meetings.

Item 2(a) Standing Committee on Commodities, first session (19-23 October 1992)

The Standing Committee on Commodities, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 19 to 23 October 1992.

The Committee adopted its work programme, which is contained in annex I to the report on the session (see agreed conclusions 1(1)). The Committee also decided, by decision 2(1), to establish, as its subsidiary organs, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten and the Intergovernmental Group on Experts on Iron Ore, as now constituted.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee also initiated discussions on the proposed world conference on commodities, called for by the Conference at its eighth session.

The Board's attention is drawn to paragraph 80 to 81 of the report of the Committee, which state that the Committee should meet once annually; and that while the work programme should provide the content of its agendas, the choice of the specific agenda topics within the main headings of the work programme should be determined in the consultative mechanism of the Secretary-General of UNCTAd in accordance with paragraph 83 of the Cartagena Commitment, taking into account the evolution of the world commodity situation and progress in the work of the secretariat.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on Commodities on its first session and to endorse the work programme and decision 2(1) contained in annex I thereto.

In connection with this item, attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 47/185, of 22 December 1992, entitled "Commodities".

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/4 TD/B/CN.1/6	Report of the Standing Committee on Commodities on its first session

Item 2(b) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, first session (26-30 October 1992)

The Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 26 to 30 October 1992.

The Committee adopted its work programme as contained in annex I to the report on the session.

The Board's attention is drawn to paragraphs 40 and 41 of the report, reflecting the Committee's agreement that the agenda for its next session should be referred to the consultative mechanism of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with paragraph 83 of the Cartagena Commitment, taking into account the elements from the work programme of the Committee, and its decision concerning the timing of its second session and that the exact date be referred to the Group on Calendar Matters.

Particular attention is drawn to paragraph 42 of the report, whereby the Standing Committee agreed that the issue of possibly convening an expert group or groups should be examined in the context of the deliberations of the executive session of the Board when it considers the report of the Standing Committee.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its first session and to endorse the work programme in annex I. The Board may also wish to make any appropriate recommendations, particularly in regard to paragraph 42 of the report.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/2 TD/B/CN.4/10	Report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries on its first session

Item 2(c) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Shipping, first session (2-6 November 1992)

The Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping, established pursuant to paragraphs 70 and 72 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 2 to 6 November 1992.

The Committee adopted its work programme in the fields of shipping, ports and multimodal transport as contained in annex I to the report on the session.

In discussing the elements for the provisional agenda for its second session, the Committee requested the secretariat to provide delegations with adequate information on the underlying rationale for a group of experts on ports, and on its proposed objectives and functions, prior to the submission of a proposal to the Trade and Development Board for approval.

The consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 21 January 1993, having being informed of the follow-up action in response to the decision of the Committee, approved the draft provisional agenda for the second session - on shipping - of the Standing Committee (TD/B/CN.4/17) and also recommended that the Board at its executive session decide to convene the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports.

The Committee also adopted a decision (cf. annex II to the report) whereby the UNCTAD secretariat was called upon to provide to the Trade and Development Board, through its President, before 31 January 1993, a list of specific outputs and activities, as well as the estimated dates of completion of work for each of the elements of the work programme. The note by the secretariat is circulated in document TD/B/EX(2)/3.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 45 of the report, reflecting the Committee's decision that its second session would be held early in 1994 and that the third session would meet late in 1995 (the exact dates to be determined by the Group on Calendar Matters).

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Committee on its first session and to endorse the work programme (annex I). The Board may also wish to take note of the follow-up action called for in the decision of the Committee contained in annex II, in the light of the recommendations of the consultations held on 21 January 1993, and approve the convening of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/5 TD/B/CN.4/13	Report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping on its first session
TD/B/CN.4/17	Provisional agenda of the second session of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries - Shipping
TD/B/EX(2)/3	Work Programme on Shipping: specific outputs and activities Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 2(d) Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, first session (9 - 13 November 1992)

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, Non-debt-creating Finance for Development: New Mechanisms for Increasing Investment and Financial Flows, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 9 to 13 November 1992.

The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its work programme as contained in annex I to the Report on the session.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 10(a) of the report, which states that two sessions of the Group be held in 1993 - the first for one week in June/July and the second in late November; and one session in 1994 (which would be the final session of the Group and which would take place prior to the Spring session of the Board).

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session and to endorse the work programme in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/6 TD/B/WG.1/4	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, Non-debt-creating Finance for Development: New Mechanism for Increasing Investment and Financial Flows, on its first session

Item 2(e) Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, first session (16 - 20 November 1992), including an interim report on the preparations for the International Symposium on Trade Efficiency in 1994

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 16 to 20 November 1992.

The Working Group adopted its work programme as contained in annex II to the report on the session.

Attention is drawn to annex II to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session, Section F of which reflects the Working Group's request to its Chairman to undertake, with members States of UNCTAD, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and relevant organizations, consultations on the date and venue of the 1994 Symposium and to report the outcome to the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 47/183, entitled "Eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development", the General Assembly endorsed the convening, within existing resources, of a United Nations International symposium on trade efficiency in 1994 of one week's duration, and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAd to make all the necessary arrangements for that symposium.

In taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session, the Board may wish to endorse the work programme in annex II and the provisional agenda and the date for the second session in annex I. The Board may also wish to make any appropriate recommendation concerning preparations for the world symposium to be held in 1994.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/9	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on
TD/B/WG.2/3	Trade Efficiency on its first session

Item 2(f) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, eleventh session (23 - 27 November 1992)

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices held its eleventh session from 23 to 27 November 1992.

Attention is drawn to annex I to the report on the session, containing the agreed conclusions adopted by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in regard to the future work of the UNCTAD secretariat in the field of restrictive business practices.

Attention is also drawn to annex II, containing the provisional agenda which the Intergovernmental Group of Experts approved for its twelfth session.

At its closing plenary meeting, on 27 November 1992, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts agreed that the revised annotated outline of the proposed study on "Competitive policy and economic reforms in developing and other countries" should be annexed to the report on the session (see annex III).

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices on its eleventh session and to endorse the agreed conclusions contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/7	Report of the Intergovernmental Group
TD/B/RBP/92	of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices
	on its eleventh session

Item 2(g) Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization, first session (30 November - 4 December 1992)

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization, established pursuant to paragraph 79 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 30 November to 4 December 1992.

The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its work programme at its first session as contained in annex I of the report of the session.

The Working Group agreed on the topics to be considered at each of its subsequent sessions, including particular topics for its in-depth consideration at its second and third session in 1993, and the basic elements for privatization at its fourth session in 1994. It also approved the provisional agenda for its second session (cf. annex II of the report).

The Working Group requested the secretariat to compile a list of the main publications and national legal materials relevant to the work of the Working Group, and to prepare and circulate a list of national focal points dealing with privatization in order to facilitate exchanges among them, including the exchange of legal material and other guidelines. The secretariat has also been asked to prepare a synopsis of the activities undertaken by other international organizations.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session and to endorse the work programme contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/8 TD/B/WG.3/5	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization on its first session

Item 2(h) Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries, first session (14 - 18 December 1992)

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 14 to 18 December 1992.

The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its work programme at its first session as contained in annex I of the report of the session.

The Group also approved the provisional agenda for its second session (contained in annex II of the report).

Attention is drawn to the section on organization of work, recording the Ad Hoc Working Group's recommendation to the Board that two meetings of the Group be held in 1993 - the first for one week in September/October and the second in December; and one meeting in 1994 (which would be the final meeting of the Group and which would take place prior to the Spring session of the Board).

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session and to endorse the work programme contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)15 TD/B/WG.4/3	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries on its first session

Item 2(i) Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, first session (11 - 15 January 1993)

The Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 11 to 15 January 1993. The Committee adopted its work programme as contained in annex I of the report on the session.

The Standing Committee also approved a provisional agenda for its second session (annex II) and agreed that it would meet in 1994, the exact dates to be referred to the Calendar Group.

Furthermore, the Standing Committee agreed with the Chairman's proposal concerning the manner in which arrangements for regular consultations might be conducted between the first and the second session of the Committee, which are as follows:

(a) An Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to hold consultations with interregional, regional and subregional groupings, should be organized prior to the second session of the Standing Committee, with a view to collecting relevant information from the donor community and preparing prospects for improvement of assistance programmes. Participants in ECDC programmes and projects are requested to present their developmental objectives and external assistance requirements to this intergovernmental meeting.

(b) The second session of the Committee should receive the report of the envisaged meeting with a view to identifying programmes, projects and measures for international support.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its first session, and to endorse the work programme in annex I, including the arrangements for regular consultations.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/16 TD/B/CN.3/5	Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its first session

Item 2(j) Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, first session (18 - 22 January 1993)

The Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 18 to 22 January 1993.

The Committee adopted its work programme as contained in annex I to the report on the session.

The Committee further agreed on the contents of the agenda for its second session, including topics for the preparatory meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (see annex II).

Particular attention is drawn to paragraphs 145 and 146 of the report, whereby the Standing Committee agreed to refer to the Group on Calendar Matters the specific dates of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts and the second session of the Standing Committee.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation at its first session and to endorse the work programme contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/13 Report of the Standing Committee
TD/B/CN.2/5 on Porverty Alleviation on its first session

Item 2(k) Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, first session 25 - 29 January 1993)

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, established pursuant to paragraph 79 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 25 to 29 January 1993.

The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its work programme as contained in annex I of the report on the session.

The Group also approved the provisional agenda for its second session (contained in annex II of the report).

Attention is drawn to the section on organization of work, which contains the Working Group's recommendation to the Board that two more meetings of the Group be held - the second session in the last quarter of 1993 and the third one in the Spring of 1994.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session and to endorse the work programme contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/18 TD/B/WG.5/4	Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer on its first session

Item 2(1) Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Insurance, first session (1 - 5 February 1993)

The Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries: Insurance, established pursuant to paragraph 70 of the Cartagena Commitment, held its first session from 1 to 5 February 1993.

The Committee adopted its work programme as contained in annex I to the report on the session.

With regard to its second session, the Standing Committee selected the specific topics to be discussed (see annex II of its report) and agreed that the session should be convened in mid-1994, with the exact dates to be decided by the Group on Calendar Matters.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors - Insurance - on its first session and to endorse the Work Programme contained in annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/19 TD/B/CN.4/18	Report of the Standing Committee on Develpping Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries: Insurances its first session

Item 3 Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System in relation to UNCTAD

At the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD with the representatives of States members of the Bureau of the Board on 21 January 1993, it was agreed to include this item on the agenda of the second (pre-sessional) Executive Session of the Board.

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will present an oral report.

Item 4 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

Item 4(a) New States members of UNCTAD

At its first pre-sessional executive session, on 21 September 1992, the Board took note that UNCTAD's membership stood at 183.

In view of the fact that the membership of Czechoslovakia in the United Nations and its subsidiary organs ceased as of 1 January 1993 and with the admittance of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic to the membership of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, on 19 January 1993, the Board may wish to note that the membership of UNCTAD now stands at 184.

No documentation

Item 4(b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

At the first part of thirty-ninth session, the Board confirmed the membership of the Trade and Development Board at 135.

In view of the fact that the membership of Czechoslovakia in the United Nations and its subsidiary organs ceased as of 1 January 1993, the membership of the Board now stands at 134.

Item 4(c) Arrangements for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD in 1994.

It will be recalled that, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD, the Board, at the first part of its thirty-sixth session, held a special commemorative plenary meeting and, by resolution 376 (XXXVI), of 13 October 1989, adopted a Declaration on that occasion.

Taking into account the evolution of the organization since that time, particularly in the light of the outcome of the eighth session of the conference as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/183, of 22 December 1992, the secretariat will submit, for the Board's consideration, a preliminary note containing suggestions for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD.

Documentation

TD/B/EX/INF.2	Celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD Note by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Item 5 Other business

Item 6 Report of the Board on its second (pre-sessional) executive session

The Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, in consultation with the President, to prepare the report on its second (pre-sessional) executive session.

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Annex

GUIDELINES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Trade and Development Board in executive session

Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Trade and Development Board adopts the following guidelines for its meetings in executive session (hereafter referred to as "executive sessions of the Board").

1. The executive sessions of the Board will facilitate the strengthening of the policy function of the Board in adapting the organization's work to changing worldwide economic circumstances, reviewing work programmes and priorities, promoting greater efficiency and reacting to reports from its subsidiary bodies in order to give impetus to ongoing work.

2. The executive sessions will be convened at the level of Permanent Representatives at regular intervals, and at any time the President of the Board, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and with the members States, deems it necessary, in half-day or one day sessions. One of these sessions shall take place immediately before each part of the regular sessions of the Board. The agenda for each executive session of the Board will be agreed upon sufficiently in advance to ensure adequate preparation. Each executive session of the Board should be preceded by an appropriate consultative process.

3. The executive sessions of the Board may provide guidance to the subsidiary bodies of the Board and take action on the outcomes of the meetings of these bodies; take action on procedural and organizational matters; and provide timely preparation of the issues to be considered by the regular sessions of the Board.

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* Adopted by the Board at its 805th plenary meeting on 7 May 1992. (cf. TD/B/1323(Vol.II), part I, decision 398(XXXVIII), annex A).